



# Special Education

## Millage Renewal 2026



On **Tuesday, May 5**, voters in the Kalamazoo RESA service area will be asked to **vote on** whether to renew a **six-year, 1.5-mills property tax millage** to help fund the costs of special education in our local schools.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Is this a new millage?**

No. It's a renewal. The original 1.5-mills property tax millage was first approved by voters in May 2015 and then most recently renewed in 2021. This is a request to renew the millage for another six years. If approved, taxpayers would continue paying the same millage rate they approved in 2021.

### **What is being proposed?**

This proposal asks whether to renew a six-year, property tax millage that voters originally approved in 2015 at 1.5-mills and renewed in 2021. If approved, the proposal would authorize millage at the original 1.5-mills. The funds will be used by Kalamazoo RESA to reimburse public school districts (Climax-Scotts, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Parchment, Portage, Schoolcraft, and Vicksburg) and local public school academies for their mandated special education costs.

### **Why is a special education millage renewal on the ballot?**

Local school districts are mandated by law to provide special education programs and services; however, the federal and state government do not fully fund special education, placing the burden on local and intermediate school districts. Without additional millage funds, local school districts are forced to use general education funds to pay for special education programs and services.



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### **What is the impact to local districts if this millage is not renewed?**

Before this millage was originally passed in 2015, local school districts were paying approximately 36% of their unreimbursed special education costs out of their general education funds. Without this millage in place, local school districts would lose approximately \$16.8 million in special education funding, resulting in fewer dollars to support programs for all students.

### **How much would this renewal request cost the taxpayer?**

Since the special education millage is a renewal, it would not increase the tax rate above the original 1.5 mills. Homeowners would pay based on the taxable value of their home, which is typically about half of the market value. A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$75,000 (approximate market value of \$150,000) pays \$112.50/year, which is \$9.38/month.

### **What will the ballot actually say?**

KALAMAZOO REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE RENEWAL AND RESTORATION PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the intermediate school district to continue to levy special education millage previously approved by the electors and restores millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 1.4862 mills (\$1.4862 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, to provide funds for the education of students with a disability, be renewed for a period of 6 years, 2027 to 2032, inclusive, and also be increased by .0138 mill (\$0.0138 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 6 years, 2027 to 2032, inclusive; if the millage is approved, the intermediate school district will be authorized to levy special education millage at the rate of 1.50 mills (\$1.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) as previously approved by the electors on May 4, 2021 and, if levied in 2027, will collect approximately \$16,815,446 from local property taxes authorized herein (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2026 tax levy and a restoration of millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963)?

### **When may I register to vote?**

The last day to register to vote in any manner other than in-person for this election is Monday, April 20, 2026. However, voters may still register in-person through Election Day (May 5, 2026).

### **Do I have to register for each election?**

No. Registration is permanent as long as you continue to live in the city or township where you are registered. You may check your registration status at [michigan.gov/vote](https://michigan.gov/vote).